

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A spoked wheel for use with a tire comprising:

a rim having a plurality of holes;

a respective plurality of nipples;

an axial bidirectional locking means formed on a portion of each of said respective plurality of nipples, said axial bidirectional locking means comprising a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also an external thread on the shank of the nipple which engages with a female thread disposed in a nut adjacent an outside portion of the rim to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim; and

a resilient seal fitted onto the shank of the nipple close to said shoulder;

a seating coaxial with the hole and adapted for fitting said seal is formed as a counter bore in the hole in the rim, said seating having a substantially cylindrical wall and forming an abutment for said shoulder; and

an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said respective plurality of nipples,

wherein each nipple is disposed in the respective hole in the rim and retained in said hole by a respective one of said axial bidirectional locking means so as to be substantially gastight in the rim.

3-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 2 in which ~~said axial bidirectional locking means comprises a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which engage the rim to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim in which said female thread is made in a said nut is screwed onto the shank of the nipple to grip said rim between said nut and said shoulder.~~

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 2, wherein said rim is adapted such that the plurality of nipples face into an inflation chamber of the tire.

26-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said seal comprises an O-ring.

32. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which the shoulder and the nut are provided at opposite sides of the rim so as to form said axial bidirectional locking means.

33. (New) A wheel according to claim 2, wherein said rim is adapted such that the plurality of nipples face into an inflation chamber of the tire.

34. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.

35. (New) A wheel according to claim 34 in which the spoke is held abutted against the nipple as an extension of it.

36. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which the nipple has a blind axial hole running through it.

37. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said nipple has a head shaped to provide a key feature for driving the nipple.

38. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said counter bore in each of said plurality of holes formed in the rim has a first diameter disposed adjacent an outside portion of the rim and a second diameter greater than said first diameter disposed adjacent an inside portion of the rim.

39. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said shoulder has a beveled portion adapted to mate with an inside portion of the rim.

40. (New) A spoked wheel for use with a tire comprising:

a rim having a plurality of holes;

a respective plurality of nipples, said nipples comprising a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them;

an axial bidirectional locking means formed on a portion of each of said

respective plurality of nipples, said axial bidirectional locking means comprising a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which engages with a corresponding thread disposed adjacent an outside portion of the rim to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim;

a seal fitted onto the shank of the nipple close to said shoulder;

a seating coaxial with the hole and adapted for fitting said seal is formed as a counter bore in the hole in the rim, said seating having a substantially cylindrical wall and forming an abutment for said shoulder; and

an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said respective plurality of nipples,

wherein each nipple is disposed in the respective hole in the rim and retained in said hole by a respective one of said axial bidirectional locking means so as to be substantially gastight in the rim, and

wherein said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them.

41. (New) A wheel according to claim 40 in which said counter bore in each of said plurality of holes formed in the rim has a first diameter disposed adjacent an outside portion of the rim and a second diameter greater than said first diameter disposed adjacent an inside portion of the rim.